

## **March 16, 2009 - Special Town Council Meeting**

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding**

**Vice Chairman Richard Cambra**

**Councillor Frank A. Bozyan**

**Councillor M. Theresa Santos**

**Councillor Robert J. Sylvia**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr., Absent**

**POSTED – March 11, 2009**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk**

**Town of Middletown**

**Town Hall – 350 East Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

**Dear Mrs. Marshall:**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2 and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally**

**consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:**

**6:00 PM - Presentation by Lori Verderosa, SPF Grant Manager/MSAPTF Coordinator, Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, re: Overview of the Grant Process, Media Campaign and matters related there to**

**6:30 PM – Memorandum of Town Administrator, re: Employee Recognition Program.**

**Said meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Christopher T. Semonelli,**

**President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**CC:**

**Town Council**

**Public Library**

**Town Administrator**

**Town Solicitor**

**This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.**

**6:00 PM - Presentation by Lori Verderosa, SPF Grant Manager/MSAPTF Coordinator, Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, re: Overview of the Grant Process, Media Campaign and matters related there to**

**Present, representing the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force were Lori Verderosa, SPF Grant Manager/MSAPTF Coordinator and Committee member Nancy T. Heroux.**

**Lori Verderosa, SPF Grant Manager/MSAPTF Coordinator addressed the Council presenting an overview of the following:**

**Strategic Prevention Framework - State Incentive Grant**

**Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force**

**Monday, March 16, 2009**

## **Presentation Outline**

### **I Strategic Prevention Framework**

- **The Process**
- **Local Goals**
- **State Goals**

### **II SPF - A Five Step Data Driven Process**

- **Step One: Assessment**

#### **§ Primary Data**

#### **§ Secondary Data**

## **§ Middletown Community Needs Assessment Key Findings**

- Step Two: Capacity Building**

## **§ Community Readiness Assessment Tool**

## **§ Key Community Stakeholders Interviews**

## **§ Media Campaign**

- Risks/Consequences of Underage Drinking**

- Step Three: Planning**

## **§ Researched Evidence Based Programs (EBPs)**

## **§ Risk Factor: Youth Access/Availability**

- Social Access**

- Retail Access**

- Step Four: Implementation**

## **§ A Multi Pronged Approach**

## **§ Social Access**

- **Media Campaign**
- **Local Ordinances**
- **Law Enforcement Strategies**
- **Retail Access**
- **Awareness/ Education**
- **Local Ordinances**
- **Law Enforcement Strategies**
- **Step Five: Evaluation**

## **§ Local**

## **§ State**

## **§ Federal**



### **III Middletown Town Council/MSAPTF “Partnership”**

- Approval of New Local Ordinances/Strengthening Old Ordinances**

### **IV Questions/Answers**

## **TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **Executive Summary**

### **Key Findings**

**The state of Rhode Island and town of Middletown currently face considerable challenges around issues of substance use and abuse. The findings presented in this assessment endorse the opinions of many local residents: Middletown has a number of needs around**

**substance use prevention. Some key findings are as follows:**

**Alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use among students at Middletown High and at Gaudet Middle School has been decreasing since 1997, but MHS usage rates remain higher than the statewide average.**

**There is a rise in the number of students who report heavy alcohol use since 1997.**

**Usage rates at Gaudet have decreased, but 23% of 8th graders report drinking alcohol.**

**Drinking has risen slightly among students in elementary school, most noticeably at JFK, where 10% of students reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.**

**Elementary school students whose families qualified for free or reduced lunch have higher rates of ATOD use than the general student population.**

**Youth who come from military families face greater risk for ATOD use than nonmilitary families due to the high rates of transition from base to base**

**The two substances used most often by Middletown youth and adults are marijuana and alcohol. Alcohol is made available to youth through older siblings, through local stores and most frequently, through their parents' liquor cabinets. This represents both retail and social access.**

**Binge drinking among those 18-25 in the state of RI is highest in the nation and Bristol/Newport County ranks 10th of 377 national substate regions in alcohol/substance abuse.**

**Alcohol use is pervasive among all community members and is believed to be exacerbated by the area's tourism industry and residents' generally permissive attitudes toward drinking.**

**A prevailing complaint from students and adults alike is that there are not enough recreational options, with readily accessible transportation, to encourage positive, healthy behaviors among Middletown youth.**

**There is no central location for gathering or for getting information about youth-oriented events held on the weekends. Many stated that these issues led to feelings of boredom and ATOD use among Middletown youth.**

**Some Middletown youth and parents report a lack of concern about the effects of marijuana on driving, believing that it is a safer alternative to drinking and driving.**

**Lori Verderosa, SPF Grant Manager/MSAPTF Coordinator on behalf of the Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force requests the Council to partner with the committee by the Council approving New Local Ordinances and Strengthening Existing Alcohol Ordinances within the Town.**

**6:30 PM – Memorandum of Town Administrator, re: Employee Recognition Program.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown read the employee's names listed in the above memorandum receiving recognition for years of service. Council President Semonelli presented the pins of service to Warren Hall, Jack Kane, Jr., Daniel J. Williams, Barbara Camadeco, Scott A. Cutting, Pamela J. Gould, Deborah M. Joyce, Wendy J.W. Marshall, Carol O'Hanley, Frank Pasquale, Brian J. Powell, Barbara Renehan and Evelyn Leduoux which were present for the presentation.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 6:40 P.M.**

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**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**